

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07  
AID-05 /097 W  
-----110954Z 036027 /15

P 101625Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6641  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IS  
SUBJECT: BEGIN TO PRESENT GOVERNMENT ON JUNE 20

1. PREMIER-DESIGNATE MENAHEM BEGIN ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT HE WOULD PRESENT HIS CABINET TO THE KNESSET ON JUNE 20. THE STATEMENT CAME AT THE END OF A FULL DAY OF MEETINGS SUCCESSIVELY WITH THE DMC, ALIGNMENT LEADER PERES, PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND FINALLY LEADERS OF AGUDAT YISRAEL. SUMMING UP THE RESULTS OF THESE MEETINGS: PERES AGAIN REJECTED BAGIN'S OFFER OF A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY; THE DISCUSSION WITH RABIN CONCERNED TRANSFER OF POWER; NO PROGRESS WAS REPORTED IN THE LIKUD-DMC MEETING; AND AGUDAH LEADERS CONVEYED THE AGUDAH SUPPORT OF, BUT NOT PARTICIPATION IN, A  
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LIKUD GOVERNMENT. THE AGUDAH WILL NOT SEEK PORTFOLIOS.

2. THE TORAH COUNCIL REPORTEDLY LAID DOWN THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS FOR AGUDAH SUPPORT AND BEGIN HAS INDICATED ACCEPTANCE:  
--A) THE LAW OF RETURN BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR

RECOGNITION OF CONVERSION ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH HALACHA (ORTHODOX LAW)--THE "WHO IS A JEW" QUESTION

- B) STRICTER OBSERVANCE OF SABBATH LAW IN ECONOMIC ENTERPRISES.
- C) EXEMPTION FROM MILITARY SERVICE ON ACCOUNT OF RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS FOR GIRLS WHO SUBMIT NOTARIZED STATEMENTS.
- D) AUTOPSY ONLY WITH PERMISSION OF THE DECEASED'S FAMILY.
- E) REPEAL OF THE RECENTLY ENACTED ABORTION LAW.
- F) FULL RECOGNITION AND INCREASED FINANCIAL HELP FOR AGUDAT YISRAEL'S SCHOOL SYSTEM.
- G) ACCEPTANCE BY COURTS OF LAW OF A WITNESS "PLEDGE" TO TELL THE TRUTH IN PLACE OF AN OATH.
- H) THE SOUTHERN WALL OF THE TEMPLE MOUNT WILL BE UNDER THE SAME RELIGIOUS JURISDICTION (I.E., THE RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS MINISTRY) AS THE WESTERN (WALLING) WALL.
- I) STRICTER IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY.

3. FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF ANOTHER LIKUD-DMC NEGOTIATING SESSION THIS MORNING, IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE TWO SIDES WILL MEET AGAIN. TODAY'S SESSION INVOLVED A SMALLER TEAM FROM EACH SIDE: BEGIN, DULZIN AND HOROWITZ FOR THE LIKUD AND YADIN, AMIT, TAMIR AND ZOREA FOR THE DMC. THE DMC LEADERSHIP CONVENED SOON AFTER CONCLUSION OF THE SESSION WITH THE LIKUD AND IS EXPECTED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DRAW UP A RECOMMENDATION TO PRESENT TO THE DMC 120 MAN COUNCIL (CENTRAL COMMITTEE) SCHEDULED TO MEET JUNE 13.

4. LIKUD SPOKESMAN BEN-ELISSAR INFORMED US THAT THE MAIN ISSUE REMAINS A DMC VETO OVER SETTLEMENTS (TEL AVIV 4097). HE IMPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO "GIVE" BY LIKUD ON THIS POINT. APPARENTLY THERE WAS NO PROGRESS AT TODAY'S MEETING BUT ONLY CLARIFICATION OF THE PROBLEM AREAS. HE SAID THAT THE LIKUD WOULD HAVE A GOVERNMENT BY JUNE 20--"PERHAPS NEXT WEEK," THE AGUDAH CONDITIONS PRESENTED NO PROBLEMS; MOST HAD ALREADY BEEN ACCEPTED BY BEGIN IN TALKS WITH THE NRP. ONLY THE "WHO IS A JEW" ISSUE GAVE THE LIKUD PAUSE AND HERE BEGIN HAD MERELY AGREED TO "EFFORTS" TO GET THE

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LAW CHANGED. HE HAD MADE NO COMMITMENT THAT ALL HIS  
COALITION WOULD SUPPORT SUCH NEW LEGISLATION.  
BEN-ELISSAR SIAD THAT AGREEMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN REACHED  
WITH THE POALEI AGUDAT YISRAEL ENSURING ITS ONE  
VOTE IN SUPPORT OF THE LIKUD COALITION. HE THUS  
FIGURED THAT EVEN WITHOUT THE DMC THE NEW  
GOVERNMENT WOULD COMMAND 63 VOTES: THE LIKUD'S  
45 (COUNTING SHLOMZION'S 2); NRP'S 12; THE TWO  
AGUDAH PARTIES' FIVE AND MOSHE DAYAN'S ONE. HE  
MAINTAINED THAT THE OPPOSITION WOULD NOT BE ABLE  
TO MUSTER ALL OF THE REMAINING 57 VOTES BECAUSE  
THE GOVERNMENT COULD COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF MORE  
THAT 63. ASKED IF HE WAS REFERRING TO FLATTO-  
SHARON, HE REPLIED "HIM AND OTHERS."

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5. BEN-ELISSAR HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A 36 HOUR  
PR TRIP TO PAIRS. HE EXPRESSED DELIGHT AND SURPRISE

AT HOW WELL HE HAD BEEN RECEIVED AND AT HOW MUCH  
HE ACCOMPLISHED.

6. COMMENT: IT IS APPARENT THAT THE LAST TWO  
LIKUD-DMC MEETINGS DID LITTLE TO BRING THE SIDES  
CLOSER ON THE TWO ISSUES OF SETTLEMENTS IN THE  
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE ON  
THE WEST BANK, IT NOW SEEMS TO BE UP TO THE DMC  
TO ACCEPT THE DIFFERENCES--PERHAPS DEVISING SOME  
FORMULA TO PAPER THEM OVER--OR OPT TO STAY OUT OF  
THE GOVERNMENT. THE DMC LEADERS, ESPECIALLY  
YADIN, WELL KNOW THAT MUCH MORE THAN THE  
FUTURE OF THEIR PARTY IS AT STAKE. THEY WILL  
NOT BE ABLE TO PREVENT A LIKUD GOVERNMENT, BUT  
THEIR DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO JOIN COULD  
DETERMINE ITS LONGEVITY, IMAGE, ACCEPTABILITY  
AND PERHAPS EVEN INFLUENCE ITS POLICY. THIS  
LAST POINT SUGGESTS THEIR DILEMMA.  
LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BEGIN TO PRESENT GOVERNMENT ON JUNE 20  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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